GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2775
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
CULTIVATION OF PADDY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under paddy cultivation has been declining year after year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the area under such cultivation during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the yield of paddy alongwith the success achieved as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The all-India area under paddy cultivation from 2003-04 to 2005-06 is given in the table below :

Year	Area (`000 Hectares)
2003-04	42,592.5
2004-05	41,906.7
2005-06	43,659.8

During crop year 2004-05, rainfall from the South-West Monsoon was 13% less than its long period average, which resulted in decline in area under paddy during 2004-05 especially in Uttar Pradesh. State-wise area under paddy cultivation from 2003-04 to 2005-06 is given in the Annexure.

(c): In order to increase the productivity and production of rice (paddy) in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice)` is under implementation under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture from October 2000. Under the scheme assistance is provided on 90:10 percentage sharing basis between Government of India and the States for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid rice production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations, training of farmers, transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds. Besides, Frontline Demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers` fields on 100 percent GOI assistance. The Government is also giving encouragement to improved technologies for rice such as System of Rice Intensification (SRI), Zero Tillage and adoption of other resource conservation technologies. As a result of these efforts, productivity of paddy has increased from 2979 kg/hectare in 1999-2000 to 3153 kg/hectare in 2005-06.